



SECURE ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

Good Practice Guidance

Title: The use of Mobility In Secure Children's Homes
(England & Wales)

Purpose: To ensure that mobility is proactively used to enhance the development of young people in secure care, within a framework of practice that is safe and secure

Date: Friday 29th June 2007

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

1.1 Mobility programmes are integral to the achievement of care and resettlement objectives for young people in secure care.

1.2 Mobility linked to the objectives of a young person's care/training plan can:

- Facilitate contact with family/carers.
- Enable reintegration into the community.
- Allow introduction to new accommodation/education/employment.
- Develop constructive use of leisure time.
- Provide a measure of progress made and self-control achieved by the young person.

1.3 In determining the content and management of mobility, planned or unplanned, the overriding concerns will be the safety and security of the young person and the protection of the public.

2. Legislation and Approval

2.1 *Secure Remand (S.23 (5) C&YP Act 1969)*

The facility of planned/progressional mobility is not available to young people on secure remand. Special mobility can be facilitated at the discretion of the Secure Children's Home manager, e.g. medical emergencies.

Refer also to:-

Individual Secure Children's Homes policy and guidance.

- 2.2 *Young People Sentenced Under S90/91 Powers of Criminal Courts Act.
Young People Sentenced Under S.226/228 Under Criminal Justice Act 2003.*

Proposals for planned / progressional mobility must be agreed in principle at a review/planning meeting. These proposals must then be sent to the S.90/91 office at the YJB for approval. Mobility cannot be undertaken without the approval of the S.90/91 office.

Special mobility, e.g. medical emergency, can be facilitated at the discretion of the Secure Children's Home Manager.

- 2.3 *Young People Subject to Detention and Training Orders Under S.73 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998.*

Proposals for planned / progressional mobility should be agreed in principle at review/planning meetings and will be subject to the approval of the Secure Children's Home Manager.

Special mobility is at the discretion of the Secure Children's Home Manager.

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- 2.4 *Youth Justice Board*

The YJB require to be informed of any mobility plans for young people placed by them (information to Placement Team Manager). As such the YJB is not part of the approval process.

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- 2.5 *Young People Placed in Secure Care Under S.25 of the Children Act 1989*

Planned / Progressional mobility plans should be brought to review meetings and will be agreed at the meeting as a part of the young person's evolving care plan. Agreement to mobility should be confirmed in writing by the young person's local authority.

Special mobility e.g. medical emergency will be facilitated at the discretion of the Secure Children's Home Manager.

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policy and guidance.*

3. Types of Mobility

- 3.1 *Progressional Mobility*

Most young people will be considered for progressional mobility, although how quickly this will occur will depend on their individual circumstances and legal status.

The concept of a planned progressional mobility programme is based upon the resettlement of the young

person from a secure environment to an open one. This entails a structured, progressional mobility programme, linked to the individual care/training plan, which clearly sets out the aims and objectives of the mobilities.

3.2 *Attendance Mobility*

This relates to those young people who have not yet attained progressional mobility but may need to leave the Unit to attend specific pre-planned events, e.g. medical appointments, court appearances. Attendance mobility should have the advance agreement of the placing authority/YOT and of S.90/91 office where appropriate.

3.3 *Unplanned Mobility*

Occasionally situations will occur which require immediate, unplanned mobility. Typically this will be where there is a requirement for emergency medical treatment that cannot be given in the Home. Emergency medical treatment should not be delayed whilst formal mobility approval is sought although appropriate notifications should be made as soon as is reasonably practicable.

4. Good Practice Elements

- 4.1 All planned mobility should be proposed and agreed at review/planning meeting.
- 4.2 All elements of the mobility plan must be clearly related to the achievement of care planning/training objectives.
- 4.3 All elements of the mobility plan must be subject to a risk assessment.
- 4.4 Mobility plans for DTOs must have the approval of the Secure Children's Home Manager.
- 4.5 Progressional mobility cannot commence until the half-way stage of the custodial element of a young person's sentence (based on CRD). Mobility should be an agenda item on the mid-point and subsequent Planning Meetings.
- 4.6 Mobility should commence within one month of the planning meeting/review making the recommendation.

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- 4.7 If a mobility is terminated because of the behaviour of the young person the programme should be suspended and reviewed. Any indefinite suspension should be referred to a review/planning meeting.
- 4.8 Withdrawal of mobility should not be used as a sanction where this would impact on pre-arranged resettlement appointments.
- 4.9 Only specified and agreed activities should take place during the mobility. Changes should not be made without the approval of the Duty Manager.
- 4.10 On all supervised mobility the rules and expectations within the Home will extend to the mobility, e.g. no smoking for young people or staff.
- 4.11 A decision to allow a young person to have money will reflect their risk assessment status.
- 4.12 Searching of young people on return from mobility should only routinely take place if the young person has not been supervised by staff at all times or if the young person's risk assessment reflects the need to search.
- 5. Risk Assessment**
- 5.1 In order to meet the safety and security objectives of mobility both for the young person and for others, all mobility must be subject of a thorough risk assessment.
- 5.2 A separate and discreet risk assessment should be completed in relation to the young person and the activity to be undertaken.
- 5.3 Staff conducting the mobility will need to be aware of the young person's risk status on the day.
- 5.4 Staff who are supervising the young person should complete the mobility risk assessment.
- 5.5 Where mobility involves a visit to the young person's home area this should be subject of a home circumstances report from the YOT/social worker.

Refer also to:-

Individual Secure Children's Homes policy and guidance.

Department of Health LAC [93] Guidance on Permissible Forms of Control in Residential Care

Individual Secure Children's Homes policy and guidance.

SAN Good Practice Guidance - The Physical Searching of Young People in Secure Children's Homes (England and Wales).

Individual Secure Children's Homes policy and guidance.

6. Supervision Levels

6.1 Level of supervision required will be risk assessed and will consider:

- The young person's current mobility status.
- The young person's physical condition.
- The young person's medical profile.
- The young person's legal status.
- Risk of absconsion.
- Availability and suitability of staff on duty.

6.2 Where relevant MAPPA documents should be checked to ensure that they do not contain requirements that dictate supervision levels, location etc.

MAPPA Documents

6.3 Such conditions should also be borne in mind when young people on ASBOs have mobility in their home areas.

6.4 For progressional mobility level of supervision will be recommended in review/planning meetings.

6.5 Where relevant the level of supervision is subject to approval of the S.90/91 office.

6.6 For young people on remand a supervision level of 3:1 is suggested.

6.7 For other young people supervision level should reflect their risk assessment and by definition supervision levels would generally be no more than 1:1 for young people on progressional mobility.

6.8 In certain circumstances unsupervised mobility may be agreed. Units are advised to ensure that they have written agreement from YOT/L.A.

6.9 For young people placed on welfare grounds ultimate responsibility for mobility decisions rests with the local authority.

7. Recording

7.1 Mobility proposals should be documented as a mobility plan.

7.2 Copy of the mobility plan should be forwarded to YJB Placement Team Manager for information where young person is on remand or subject of DTO.

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Refer also to:-

*Individual Secure
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7.3 For welfare placements written mobility plans should be forwarded to the local authority. Agreement to the plan should be confirmed in writing by the young person's local authority.

7.4 A written risk assessment should be undertaken specific to mobility. This should also reflect any risks specific to the mobility venue.

7.5 It is advised that Units should have a photo of the young person on file and a record of their clothing when on mobility.

8. Absconding

8.1 There can be no prescribed formula for how staff should react during specific incidents. It is important that all actions taken by staff should be balanced against other risks that the action may bring.

8.2 If a young person absconds the staff member should immediately contact the Duty Manager/Shift Leader by mobile phone. The Duty Manager will decide if and when Police should be notified.

8.3 Staff should not give chase through traffic, due to the risk to self and others, but should follow at walking pace, attempting to reassure and reason with the young person where possible.

8.4 Interference from the public should be met with a polite response and production of the staff member's ID card.

8.5 If the young person returns the mobility should be terminated and the young person returned to the secure children's home. The young person should be praised for making a positive decision to return rather than be sanctioned.

8.6 If the young person fails to return and the staff member loses sight of them the Duty Manager should be informed by phone and the Police will be informed.

8.7 In the event of a young person absconding the following should be informed:

- Parents/carers.
- Social Worker and/or YOT.
- Police
- Ofsted in writing
- YJB Placement Team Manager – in writing.

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- Departmental notifications.

9. Escort Services

9.1 Units are advised to have a policy with reference to the use of escort services, especially to cover those situations where the Unit has directly engaged the Escort Service.

9.2 Where the Escort Service has been engaged by the YJB or YOT as part of the YJB Contract the Escort Service is expected to conform to the requirements of the SLA.

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9.3 Policies in relation to escort services should cover:

Verifying identity of escorts, for example,

- Advance notice from agency commissioning the escorts of: name of escort service; confirmation that staff are CRB checked; arrival time and name of escorts.
- Identity badges of escorts.

9.4 If Secure Children's Home is commissioner only use agencies that give written confirmation of CRB status of their staff. The Secure Children's Home should ensure the,

- Informing escorts of young person's risk assessment.
- Establishing expectation of task to be carried out by Escorts and standards to be adhered to.
- Informing escorts of young person's risk assessment issues with particular reference to mobility.
- Establishing expectations of task to be carried out by escorts and standards to be adhered to, for example,
 - No smoking policy,
 - Medication Issues,
 - Need to inform Unit of court outcome,
 - Need to inform Unit/Police/YOT/LA immediately of absconding, or other Significant Issue,
 - Adherence to 'contact restriction' requirements whilst on mobility,
 - Awareness and management of contraband issues.

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